

Draft Minutes

WISCONSIN RIVER RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION - Exec Committee Mtg

Friday – 8 October 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Dane County Highway Garage, 2302 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI

1. **Call to Order – Chairman Shroble called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.**

2. **Executive Committee Member Roll Call:**

William	Agnew	Rock	Present
Steve	Foye	Iowa	Present
Gene	Gray	Dane	Present
Marion	Martin	Grant	Present
Karl	Nilson	Waukesha	Present
Ted	Sheckler	Crawford	Present
Gerald	Shroble	Walworth	Present
Ed	Stoltz	Waukesha	Present
Larry	Volz	Sauk	Present

Other Commissioners Present: Phil Blazkowski (Rock); Forrest Van Schwartz (Dane). **Others Present:** Joni Graves (SWWRPC/ WRRTC staff); Roger Larson (WisDOT District 1); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Frank Huntington (WisDOT); Jim Matzinger (Dane County Transportation/WRRTC staff); Delrosa Bruns (Middleton resident); Virgil Kasper (Pink Lady Rail Transit Commission); Dan Viste (Mazomanie Chamber of Commerce); Ali Wolske (Guest).

3. **Proof of Public Notice: Motion to approve / Nilson / Stoltz / Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve / Foye / Sheckler / Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Approval of the Minutes from 6 August and 10 September 2004: Motion to approve / Stoltz / Martin / Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **WSOR Monthly Operator's Report – Ken Lucht**

Monthly Operations:

- General Maintenance Activities

State Rehab Projects:

- Update on Milton Junction to Anderson Siding Project (2004)
- Proposed Hartford to Slinger Rehab Project (2005)

Continuing Issues / Topics:

- United States Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta visit to WI on October 12th
- Canadian National abandonment of rail line in Eastern WI
- WSOR's 5 + 1 Plan

As a part of the update on WSOR's 5 + 1 Plan, Lucht requested that the WRRTC send a letter of support for additional funding for rail improvements to WisDOT Secretary Busalacchi, Governor Doyle, and legislators; this would be similar to the letter that Graves sent on behalf of the PRTC, following the action taken at their last meeting. Nilson asked if there was a deadline, since the request was not on the Agenda and it was not appropriate to take action; Lucht indicated that this was not time-sensitive and asked that action be considered at the next meeting. **Motion requesting that Graves provide a draft *Letter of Support for WSOR's 5 + 1 Plan* for consideration at the November meeting of the full commission / Nilson / Sheckler / Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **WisDOT Report – Frank Huntington**

Huntington had no report. He explained that WisDOT is at the point of considering projects and that he hoped to make a report at the next meeting.

8. **WRRTC Financials**

a) **Treasurer's Report – Jim Matzinger:** After finalization of the audit, some projects will go to WisDOT to

be closed out. Huntington explained that WisDOT will be asking for their money back, in that it will be transferred to EWCRC for the upcoming rehab project. Graves stressed the need for a paper trail to appropriately account for WRRTC's transfer of project-designated funds to another entity. **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report / Nilson / Gray / Motion passed unanimously.**

b) Consideration of Action on Invoices Received by WRRTC – Matzinger indicated that he still has a receivable from WSOR; Stoltz asked questions which Matzinger answered to his satisfaction, explaining that the receivable is for the annual lease payment. Regarding the insurance invoice presented, Virgil Kasper explained that the coverage is needed because the WRRTC is a separate Commission and the policy covers staff and anyone who signs checks. **Motion to pay the Invoices, as presented / Foye / Volz / Motion passed unanimously.**

c) 2003 Audit Update – Matzinger provided copies for the audit ending 31 December 2003. He explained that there were no surprises and the numbers tied out. **Motion approving acceptance of the audit / Stoltz / Nilson / Motion passed unanimously.**

d) Update on status of funding for 2004/2005 projects – Matzinger explained that each member county had been billed \$26,300 and that money not expended on authorized projects would be kept on account for each county, as directed by previous actions of the WRRTC.

e) Update on Project Cost-Sharing Agreement – Graves explained that EWCRC had approved the cost-sharing agreement and that the matter would come before the full WRRTC at its November meeting.

Updates/Old Business:

- 9. Mazomanie (Rail Spur Removal) – Ad Hoc Committee Update – Van Schwartz, Gray, Foye:** Van Schwartz reported that he had met with staff from WisDOT and WSOR – “I congratulate all of them. Everybody's going to win on this!” In discussions with these parties and Dan Viste, Mazomanie Chamber of Commerce, a suitable location was picked out and the technical side has all been figured out, he explained, referencing a site deeded to the Town of Mazomanie in 1988, with WisDOT preserving a portion for perpetual rail use; the material would come from the existing siding; WisDOT would vacate its easement on the existing deed. He concluded: “This is really an example of how this organization, with the marvelous cooperation of the railroad and WisDOT, can agree so that everybody will win out of this – credit to everyone!” After a presentation by Viste, Van Schwartz said “this meets DOT's goal to get sidings out of towns [and] makes no changes in the rail corridor itself ... a win for everybody.” Viste expressed enthusiasm for the possible resumption of rail excursions, noting that they had 3,500 customers lined up before service was cut. He said that the community wants to proceed with this, and that they anticipate that they would contract with WSOR: “This is meant to be a cooperative effort and it could be a very positive statement for the community, WSOR, and the Commission – that's what we hope to accomplish.” Of the two options mentioned at the previous WRRTC meeting, he explained that after gathering more information the Roundy's site didn't appear to be the best long-term solution, since Roundy's is a tenant at that property, although it would only cost \$10K for that project; the current proposal to relocate the siding would likely cost \$50K and Viste said that doesn't know how they'll get the money, but that they will try. He expressed his appreciation of the Commission and the Sub-Committee's work: “This is the best long-term solution because it takes care of the issue permanently.” Viste requested an endorsement from the Commission. **Motion to support relocation of the spur, located in the central business district of Mazomanie, if funded at local expense and with no changes to the actual railroad corridor, recognizing that many formal details would need to be finalized before such a concept may be implemented / Gray / Foye / Motion passed unanimously.**
- 10. Staff Services – Ad Hoc Committee Update – Foye, Gray, Sheckler:** Foye explained that he had written up options, sent them to Gray and Sheckler, and that the Iowa County Clerk had written up the Agenda and taken the Minutes [Graves had posted the meeting, as required]. He explained that he wanted to present these options at the November meeting of the full commission in a closed session, so that the Commission could pick from that list. Copies of the letter and Minutes were distributed; the Executive Committee took no action.
- 11. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.**

